

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, EC

SUBJ: JOINT U.S.-ECUADOR NARCOTICS MEETING, NOVEMBER 4, 1974

1. THIRD MONTHLY US-ECUADOR NARCOTICS MEETING WAS CONVENED NOVEMBER 4, 1974, BY COLONEL GUSTAVO VACA, THE COORDINATOR GENERAL OF THE MINISTRY OF GOVERNMENT AND POLICE. PRESENT FROM THE ECUADOREAN SIDE WERE COLONEL NUNEZ, CHIEF OF THE NATIONAL POLICE NARCOTICS DIVISION AND THREE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CUSTOMS SERVICE. QUITO INTERPOL CHIEF MAJOR JATIVA WAS NOT PRESENT BECAUSE OF HIS RECENT ARREST ON CHARGES OF ATTEMPTING TO SMUGGLE INTO ECUADOR A LARGE QUANTITY OF WRIST WATCHES, PERFUMES AND OTHER VALUABLE ITEMS ON HIS RETURN FROM A TRIP TO PANAMA. THE U.S. SIDE WAS REPRESENTED BY THE EMBASSY'S POLITICAL COUNSELOR, THE DEA AGENT IN CHARGE, USAID NARCOTICS ADVISER AND ANOTHER EMBASSY POLITICAL OFFICER.

2. AS AGREED, GROUP PROCEEDED TO ANALYSIS OF PROGRESS TOWARD ACHIEVEMENT OF OBJECTIVES STIPULATED IN POLICE PROGRAM AGREEMENT. IN DISCUSSION OF EFFORTS TO IMPROVE CAPABILITY TO CONDUCT INVESTIGATIONS, COLONEL VACA ASKED ABOUT TRAINING. NUNEZ AND GROOM DESCRIBED COURSES ATTENDED IN-COUNTRY AND IN USA. BOTH VACA AND NUNEZ EXPRESSED APPROVAL OF COURSES, BUT NUNEZ, WITH VACA'S AGREEMENT, MADE POINT THAT FOR NARCOTICS DIVISION

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TRAINING AT DEA SCHOOL WAS WHAT IS WANTED AND NOT IPA

COURSES. MORE GENERALIZED POLICE TRAINING WAS DESIRED FOR OTHER ELEMENTS OF POLICE, BUT NOT FOR NARCOTICS DIVISION PERSONNEL. IT WAS AGREED TO STIPULATE THE NUMBER OF OFFICERS TO WHOM TRAINING WOULD BE GIVEN IN NEXT PROAG. OFFICERS WOULD BE SELECTED ON BASIS OF INTEREST AND ABILITY AND NOT BECAUSE OF RANK OR TIME IN SERVICE AS HAD BEEN DONE IN PAST. IT WAS ALSO AGREED THAT CUSTOMS POLICE SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN DEA COURSES. WE PROMISED VACA INFORMATION AS TO WHEN NEXT DEA COURSE WILL TAKE PLACE AND AN ESTIMATE AS TO HOW MANY ECUADOREAN OFFICERS COURSE MIGHT ACCOMODATE.

3. CONTINUING ANALYSIS, DISCUSSION WAS FOCUSED BY NUNEZ ON HIS INABILITY CARRY OUT PROGRAM OBJECTIVES IN ABSENCE OF SUFFICIENT NUMBER OF PERMANENTLY ASSIGNED OFFICERS CHARGED ONLY WITH NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT. TO OUR QUESTION REGARDING WHEN POLICE ORGANICO, WHOSE ABSENCE DELAYS ASSIGNMENT OF FULL-TIME OFFICERS TO NARCOTICS DIVISION, WOULD BE ISSUED, VACA SAID THAT IT COULD BE PROMULGATED "ANY MINUTE".

4. POINT RAISED BY DEA REPRESENTATIVE WHITE REGARDING EXISTING PLICE FUND FOR PURSUING NARCOTICS INVESTIGATIONS, BROUGHT EXPLANATION BY NUNEZ AND VACA OF BUREAUCRATIC PROBLEMS INVOLVED IN ADMINISTERING FUND, BUT RESULTED IN AGREEMENT BETWEEN VACA, NUNEZ AND WHITE ON WAY TO OBTAIN SUCH FUNDS PROMPTLY WHEN NECESSARY. VACA ALSO SUGGESTED THAT WHITE AND NUNEZ MEET WEEKLY OR EVEN DAILY TO EXCHANGE INFORMATION AND COORDINATE THEIR ACTIVITIES. BOTH AGREED TO FIX A PROGRAM FOR REGULAR MEETINGS.

5. WITH RESPECT TO ESTABLISHMENT OF INTELLIGENCE UNIT AND APPROPRIATE FILES SYSTEM, NUNEZ ADMITTED FAILURE TO COMPLY CITING ABSENCE OF ASSIGNED PERSONNEL. HE SAID PLANS FOR UNIT WERE READY AND WAITING AND WE WERE ENCOURAGED TO HEAR THAT NUNEZ' STAFFING PLAN FOR INTELLIGENCE UNIT CONTEMPLATES THREE OFFICERS, ONE MAJOR, ON CAPTAIN AND ONE LIEUTENANT. WITH RESPECT TO ARCHIVES HE MENTIONED US FAILRE TO DELIVER PROMISED TELETYPE EQUIPMENT WHICH IS KEY TO SYSTEM POLICE HAVE

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ESTABLISHED FOR TAPPING CENTRAL CRIMINAL ARCHIVES.

6. MEETING PGJONCH#LASTED MORE THAN VUP#HOURS, TERMINATED WITH AGREEMENT MEET AGAIN DECEMBER 2 TO CONTINUE REVIEW OF PROAG PROGRAM OBJECTIVES.

7. COMMENT: UNTIL GOE ISSUES POLICE ORGANICO, PRESENTLY DELAYED BECAUSE OF INTERNAL POLITICAL DIFFICULTIES,

NUNEZ WILL NOT BE ABLE TO MOVE TO IMPLEMENT HIS PLANS TO STRENGTHEN THE NARCOTICS SERVICES BECAUSE OF LACK OF OFFICERS. NEVERTHELESS, THERE IS AN INTENTION TO STRENGTHEN THE POLICE'S ABILITY AND A GROWING AWARENESS OF NEED TO DEVELOP A CORE OF NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT SPECIALISTS.

8. AS FOR THE JOINT MEETINGS, THEY SEEM TO BE BECOMING FORUM FOR OPEN AND FRANK DISCUSSION OF PROBLEMS. THEY HAVE SO FAR LED TO STEPS TOWARD CLOSER COORDINATION BETWEEN GOE NATIONAL AND CUSTOMS POLICE (WHO NEVER HELD REGULAR MEETINGS UNTIL THESE WERE INITIATED AT OUR SUGGESTION). THEY HAVE ALSO LED TO INCREASED CONTACT BETWEEN LOCAL POLICE AND DEA. THE FORM THE MEETINGS ARE TAKING AND THE RELATIONSHIPS WHICH ARE BEING ESTABLISHED OFFER PROMISE OF MAKING THEM VERY USEFUL TOOLS IN THE EFFORT TO STRENGTHEN THE GOE NARCOTICS EFFORT AND ABILITIES.

9. ACTIONS REQUESTED: REGARDING PARA 2 ABOVE, WOULD APPRECIATE INFORMATION AS TO WHEN NEXT DEA COURSE IS SCHEDULED AND OPTIMUM NUMBER OF SLOTS WE CAN OFFER GOE POLICE. CONCERNING PARA 5, WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANYTHING NARCOTIC'S COORDINATOR'S OFFICE CAN DO TO EXPEDITE DELIVERY OF TELETYPE EQUIPMENT. IT WILL BE RECALLED THAT SOME EQUIPMENT, OLD AND UNUSABLE, WAS SENT CAUSING CONSIDERABLE EMBARRASSMENT. PLEASE ADVISE.
BREWSTER

NOTE BY OC/T: # AS RECEIVED.

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